

Introduced by Senator Maldonado

February 22, 2005

An act to add Sections 22853.5 and 22879.5 to, and to repeal Section 22915 of, the Government Code, relating to state retirees.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1091, as introduced, Maldonado. State retirees: vision care benefits.

Existing law establishes the State Annuitants' Vision Care Fund in the State Treasury which is, upon appropriation by the Legislature, available to the Board of Administration of the Public Employees' Retirement System to provide vision care benefits to state annuitants under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act.

This bill would repeal that provision and instead require the board to provide state annuitants, who retire on or before July 1, 2006, and their family members, as specified, with vision care benefits comparable to those provided to active state employees. Under the bill, the cost of those benefits would be paid by an increase in the employers' contributions under the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act, as determined by the Legislature in the annual Budget Act.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 22853.5 is added to the Government
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 22853.5. (a) The board shall provide to state annuitants who
- 4 retire on or before July 1, 2006, and within 120 days of

1 separation from state service, and their family members, as
2 defined in Section 22775, vision care benefits comparable to the
3 vision care benefits provided to active state employees. The
4 board may provide these benefits by contracting directly with a
5 vision care plan, by amending the minimum standards for health
6 benefits plans to include comparable vision care benefits, or by
7 other means the board deems appropriate to most cost effectively
8 provide these benefits.

9 (b) The state contribution for annuitants under Article 7
10 (commencing with Section 22870) shall be increased to fully
11 cover the costs of vision care benefits provided pursuant to this
12 section.

13 SEC. 2. Section 22879.5 is added to the Government Code, to
14 read:

15 22879.5. In addition to the adjustment described in Section
16 22871, the employer's contribution with respect to an annuitant
17 described in Section 22853.5 shall be further adjusted by the
18 Legislature in the annual Budget Act to cover the cost of vision
19 care benefits provided under that section.

20 SEC. 3. Section 22915 of the Government Code is repealed.

21 ~~22915. There is in the State Treasury the State Annuitants'~~
22 ~~Vision Care Benefits Fund that is, upon appropriation by the~~
23 ~~Legislature, available to the board for expenditure solely for the~~
24 ~~provision of vision care benefits to state annuitants pursuant to~~
25 ~~this part.~~